

WINCHELSEA

DURING THE

NAPOLEONIC

WARS

*COMPILED BY MN PRATT
TOWN CLERK TO THE CORPORATION OF WINCHELSEA*

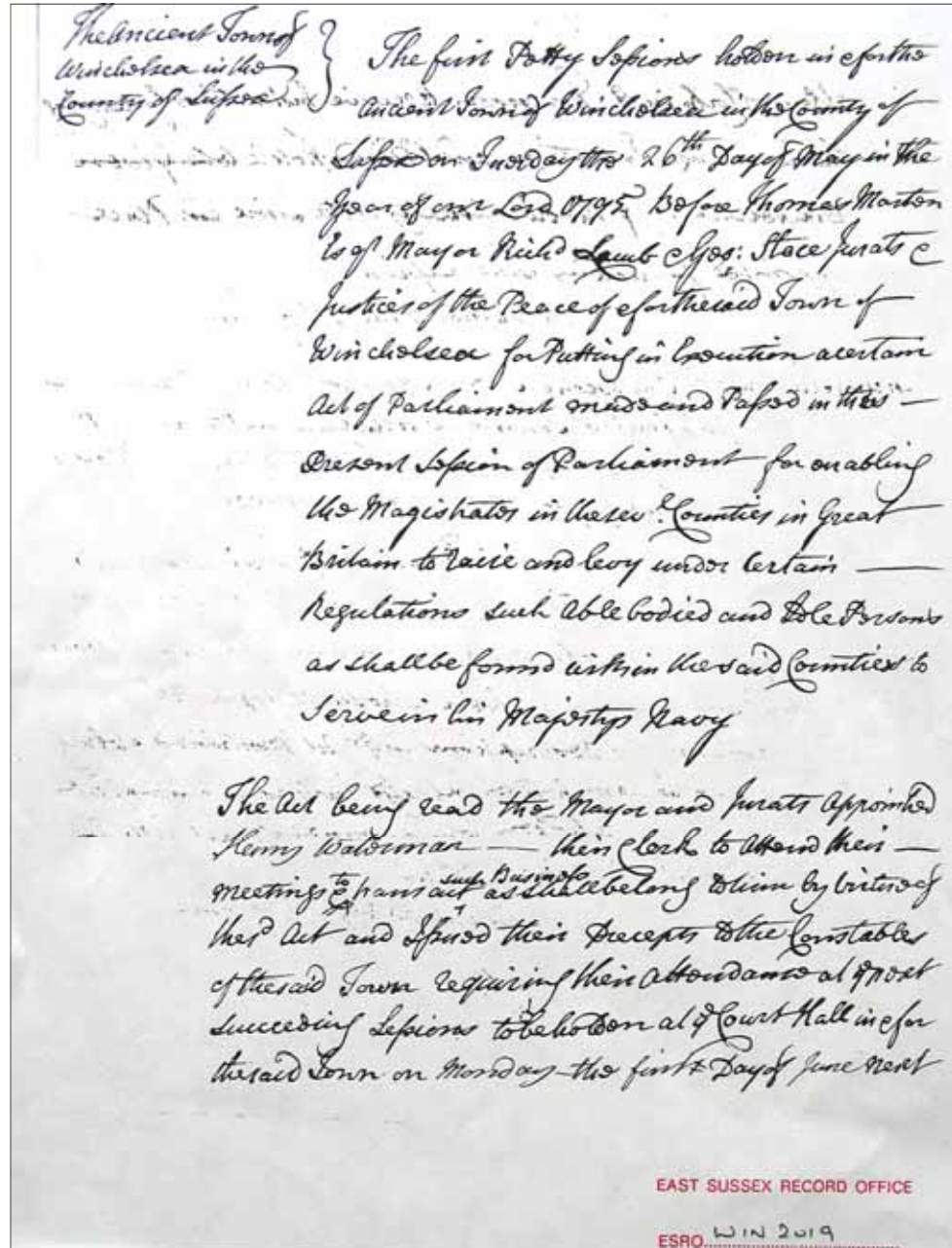
Winchelsea Petty Sessions

Petty Sessions Record 26 May 1795 et. Seq.

Winchelsea Petty Sessions meets to consider legislation requiring the apprehension of all men “able bodied and idle” who are found within the Liberty of Winchelsea. They are required for service in the navy.

The town constables are instructed to search for and apprehend such men. They report back that they have not yet found any such person.

(Three sheets A4 WIN 2019)



alter of late in ^{the} presence to receive instructions for carrying
the said letters into execution and ~~to~~ ^{give} notice to be given
to the Secretary of the Admiralty of the same and Place
appointed for letting such Letters

Adjourned to the 1st of June

Winchelsea (cont) The second Petty Sessions holden by adjournment in
the Court House
in the Town of Winchelsea on Monday the
5th day of June 1795 before the Mayor & Justices
The Justices appeared pursuant to the Receipts and
received instructions & went under the hands of the
Mayor and Justices to search for and apprehend within
the Town all such Men who shall appear to be
within any of the descriptions in the said mentioned oblong
Letters Men so apprehended before Justice at their next Petty
Sessions here to be holden to be examined & dealt with
according to the directions of the said Letters

Adjourned to the 9th of June

Winchelsea (cont) The second Petty Sessions holden by adjournment in the Court House
in and for the said Town of Winchelsea on
Tuesday the 9th day of June 1795 before
Thomas Charlton Esq Mayor Rich Lamb
& Justices

The Justices appeared & informed the Court
that they had not as yet found any person or
persons within the said Town in the meaning
of the said Act of Parliament in Winchelsea or
the Liberty thereof Adjourned to the 15th June

The 15th June 1795

The Mayor Esq, Mayor Rich Lamb Esq & Justices
Adjourned to the 23rd June 1795

The 23rd June 1795

The Mayor Esq, Mayor Rich Lamb Esq & Justices

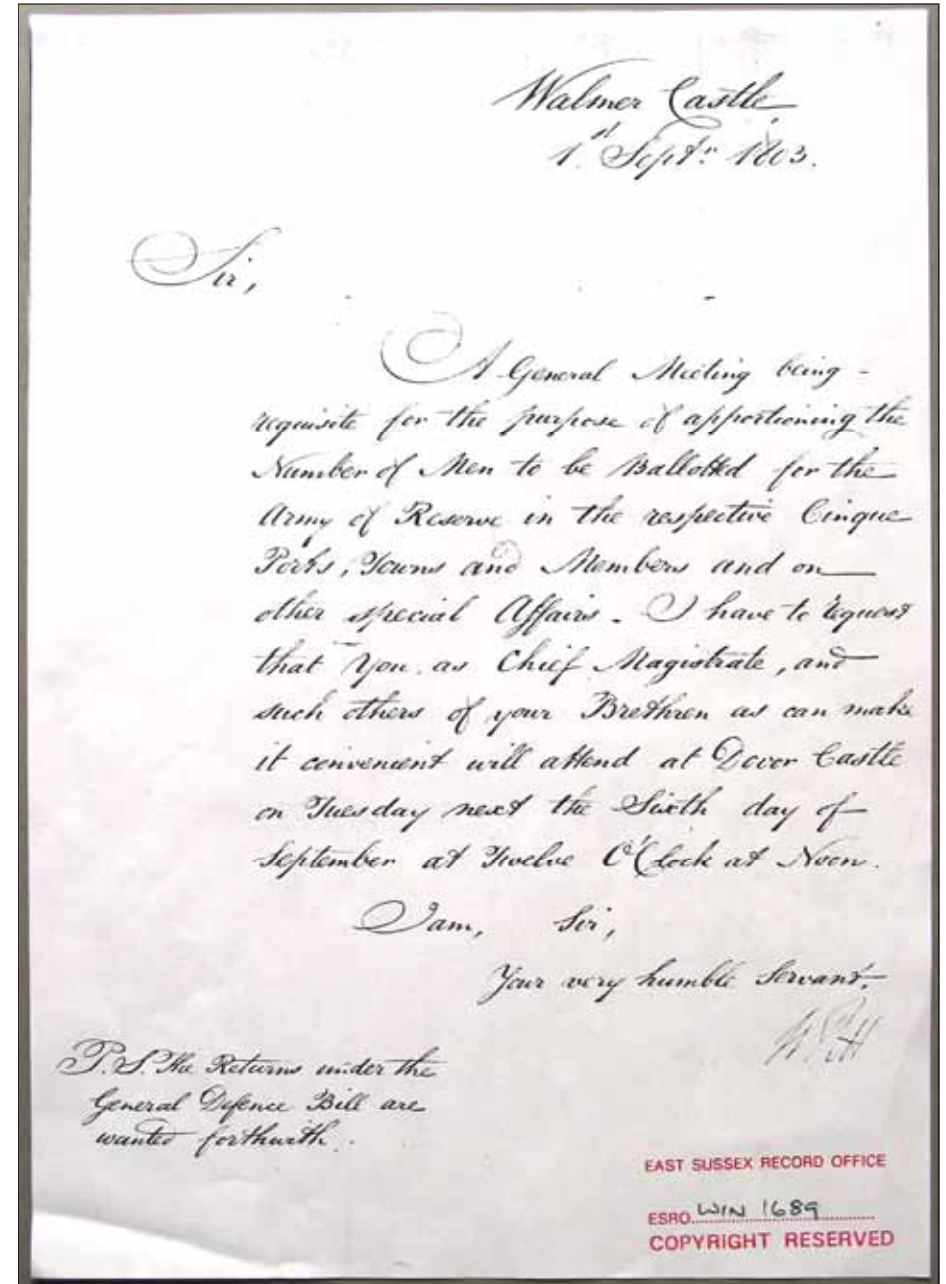
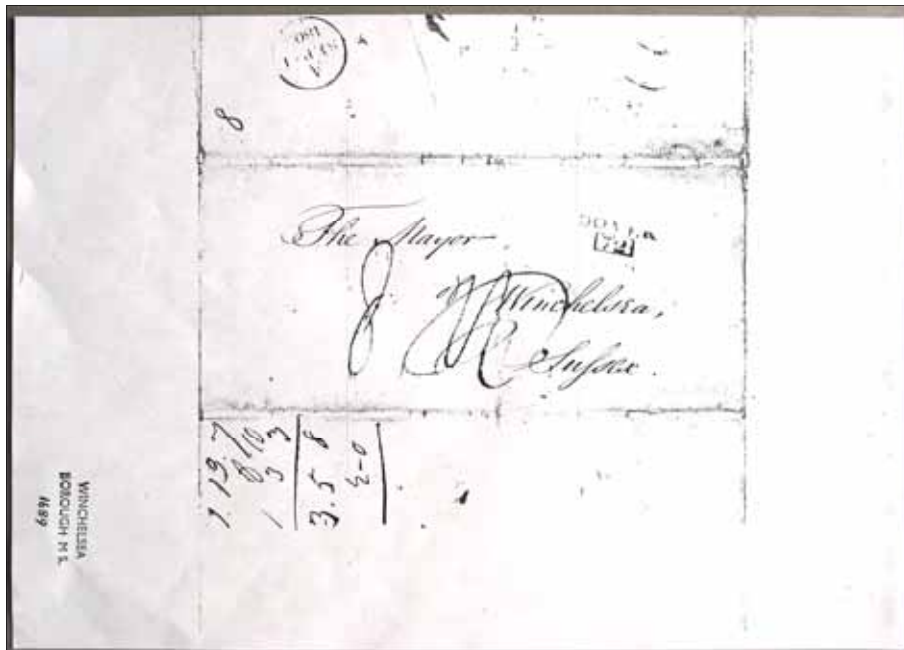
Winchelsea Museum

Documents related to the Napoleonic Wars

Walmer Castle 1 September 1803

The Lord Warden summons the Mayor of Winchelsea and other representatives of the Confederation of the Cinque Ports to a meeting to decide how many men from each port shall be called up into the Army of Reserve.

Note that the letter is personally signed by William Pitt



Exemption Claim Form

For the Army of Reserve

9 August 1803

All householders must report the names of residents between the ages of 18 and 45 and any grounds on which they claim exemption from military service.

William Ockenden fills in his return to claim exemption because he is a poor man with 6 children under 10 years of age.

(One sheet A4 WIN 1709)

To *Mr. William Ockenden*

G. Ledger, Minister, Dover.

TAKE Notice, that you are hereby required, within Three Days from the Date hereof, to prepare or produce a List in Writing, to the best of your Belief, of the Christian and Surname of each and every Man resident in your Dwelling-house, between the Ages of Eighteen and Forty-five, distinguishing every Person in your Dwelling-house of such Age, as aforesaid, claiming to be exempt from serving in the Army of Reserve, together with the Ground of every such Claim of Exemption; and you are to sign such List with your own Name, and to deliver, or cause the same to be delivered to me.

Dated the *9th* Day of *August* - 1803 *Chas? Suters Constable*

Descriptions.	Names of Persons liable to serve.	Names of Persons exempt.	Ground of Exemption.
<i>Poor Man</i>	-----	<i>Will^m Ockenden</i>	<i>6 Children under 10 years of Age</i>

N. B. If a House is divided in distinct stories or apartments, occupied distinctly, each distinct Occupier is required to make this Return.

Neglect of Compliance with this Notice will subject the Party to a Penalty of Ten Pounds.

Take Notice, that the *23* Day of *August*. *Instant* at the Hour of *Eleven* in the *fore* noon, is appointed for hearing Appeals within this Subdivision, by Persons claiming to be exempt from serving in the Army of Reserve. *at the Court-Hall in Winchester*

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ESRO *WIN 1709*
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Army of Reserve list

1803 Winchelsea Return of men liable for the militia

These sheets, prepared by the magistrates, give the names and occupations of those Winchelsea men liable in 1803 to be included in a ballot to provide members of the reserve militia.

Winchelsea was required to send three men. Also displayed are the actual slips naming three whose names are on the first page.

The slips, a remarkable survival, were placed in whatever receptacle was used for the draw and the way in which they were folded is still visible.

(Three sheets 2 x A3 1 x A4 WIN 1721)

The ancient Town of Winchelsea in the County of Sussex Army of Reserve list. made pursuant to the directions of an act passed in the forty third year of the reign of King George the Third intituled an Act to enable his Majesty more effectually to raise and assemble in England an additional military force for the better defence and security of the united Kingdom and for the more vigorous prosecution of the War

Names	Rank or occupation
✓ Thomas Fuller ✓	Farmer
✓ William Cuttenden ✓	Wagoner
✓ Thomas Law ✓	Surgeon
✓ George Stace Jun ✓	Riding Officer
Thomas Ridley ✓	Servant
✓ James Bragg ✓	Grazier
✓ John Bennett Jun ✓	Labourer
✓ John Hills Jun ✓	Servant
✓ Henry Valler ✓	Gardener
✓ James May ✓	Shoemaker
✓ Edward Arps ✓	Do
✓ Robt Clark Jun ✓	Baker
✓ Joseph Leonard ✓	Blacksmith

Continued:
**Army of Reserve
 list**
 1803 Winchelsea
 Return of men liable
 for the militia.

Names	Rank or occupation
✓ John Standen ✓	Servant
Rich^d Edwards ✓	Labourer
✓ Mr Edwards ✓	D ^o
✓ John Bennett Leg ^r ✓	Gardener
✓ Robert Jenkins ✓	Butcher
✓ Mr Fisher ✓	Podiat
✓ John Baker ✓	Labourer
✓ John Tibbs ✓	Schoolmaster
✓ Mr Hunt ✓	Taylor
✓ Edw ^d Seakens Jun ^r ✓	Tanner
✓ Thomas Sanders ✓	Labourer
✓ Thomas Bennett ✓	D ^o
✓ Luke Ledbetter ✓	D ^o
✓ Thom ^s Whiteman ✓	Junber carrier
✓ Mr J. Gainfield ✓	Cooper
✓ George Haisell ✓	Barber
✓ Rich ^d Maplesden Jun ^r ✓	Shopkeeper
✓ Mr Sarjent Jun ^r ✓	Miller
✓ Isaac Hownden ✓	Carrier
✓ Mr Martin ✓	Labourer
✓ Rich ^d Lamb ✓	Carpenter
✓ George Dawes ✓	Gentleman
✓ Joel Benfield ✓	Groom
✓ Rob ^t Sharp ✓	Footman
✓ David Lawrence ✓	Labourer
✓ George Bray ✓	Barrier
✓ Rich ^d Bray ✓	D ^o
✓ Ja ^s Bray ✓	Gardener
✓ John Elton ✓	Shopkeeper

Names	Rank or occupation
✓ Stephen Field ✓	Labourer
✓ Thomas Martin Jun ^r ✓	Sup ^r of the Custom house Port of Dept ^r
✓ Mr Chasman ✓	Labourer
✓ Benjamin Bennett ✓	Gardener
✓ Mr Blackall ✓	Servant
✓ John Baker ✓	Glazier
✓ Samuel Easton ✓	Wholesale
✓ John Alce ✓	Shoemaker
✓ Mr Long ✓	

Rob^t Sharp
 Mr Sharp
 P^r Lamb Jun^r

1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th
 25th 26th 27th 28th 29th 30th 31st
 29th 30th 31st 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th 11th 12th 13th 14th 15th 16th 17th 18th 19th 20th 21st 22nd 23rd 24th 25th 26th 27th 28th 29th 30th 31st

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Proceedings of the Grand Jury

15 January 1805

It was the duty of the Grand Jury to provide a local government service by reporting to the mayor and jurats (the magistrates) any matters within the town of Winchelsea which needed attention.

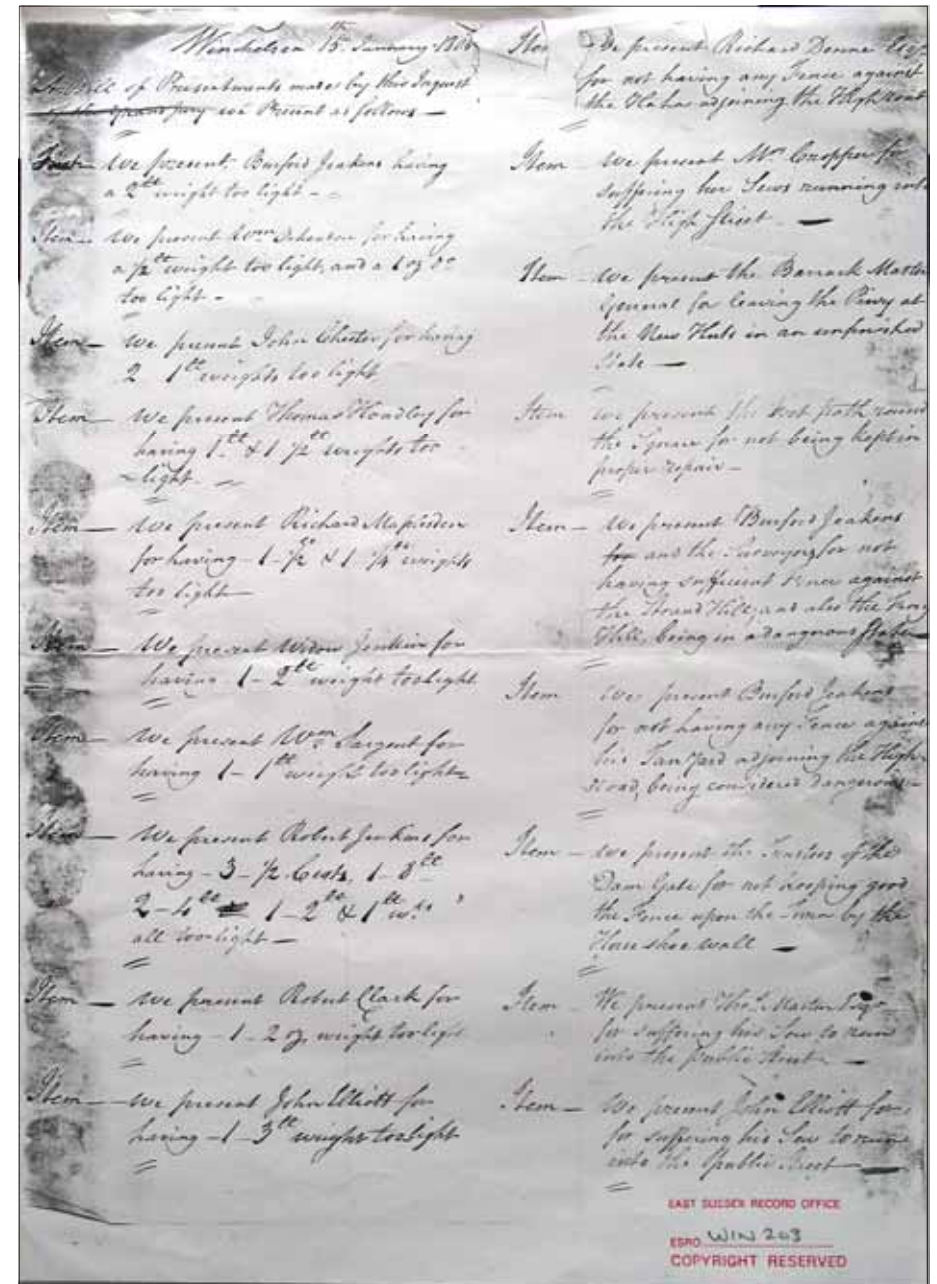
On the left of the report displayed here are complaints about traders giving short measure. The set of standard weights and measures which were used by the Corporation to check such matters is still on display in the museum.

In the right hand column one item specifically relates to the Napoleonic Wars garrison - the Barrack Master General has left the privy at the New Huts in an unfinished state.

Also in that column we see that Ferry Hill and Strand Hill are in poor condition - nothing ever changes it seems! The 'yews' in the streets are sheep not trees.

The signatures and seals of the grand jurors appear on the second sheet. A comparison of the names shows that some of them seem to be complaining about themselves!

(Two sheets A3 WIN 203)



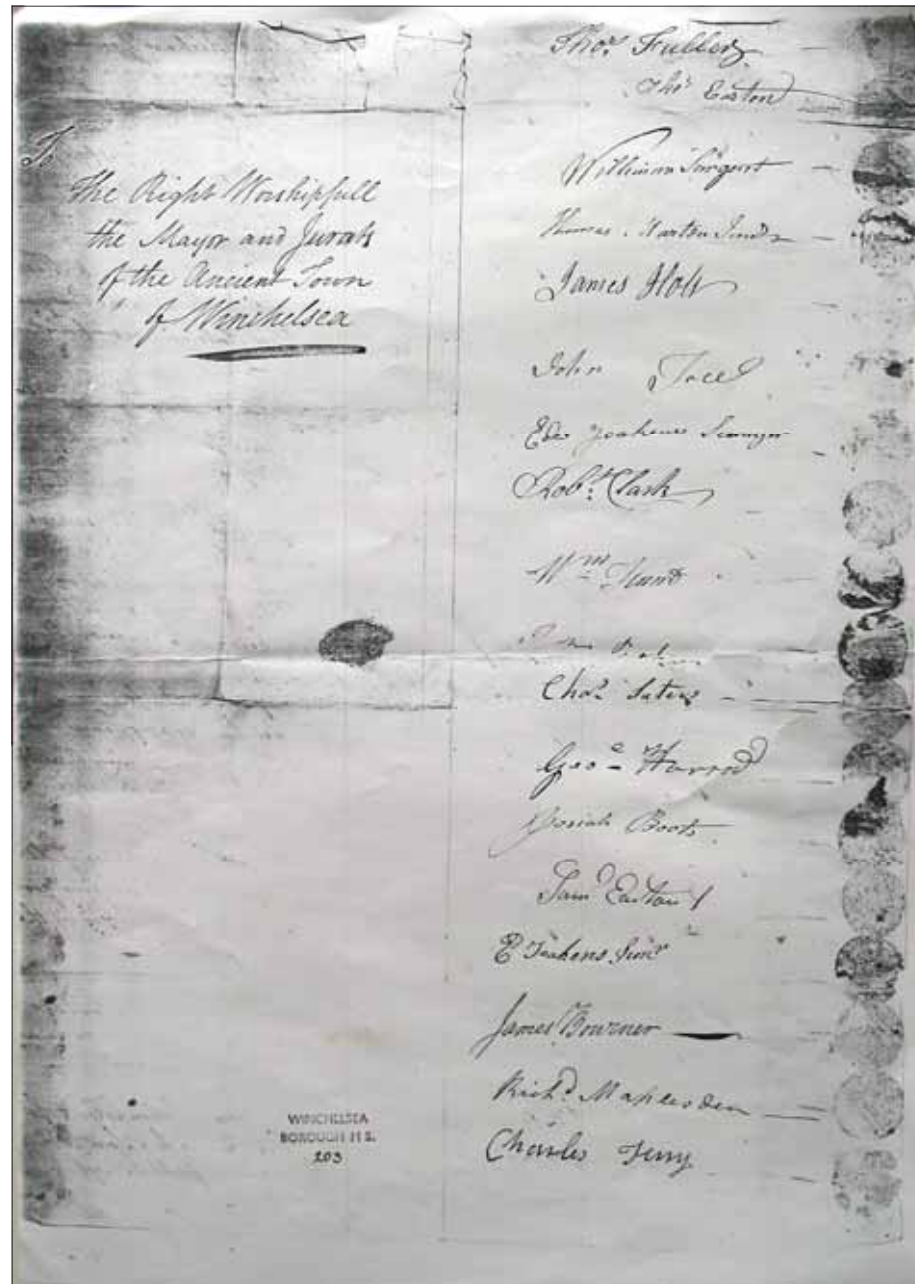
Continued:

Proceedings of the Grand Jury

15 January 1805

The signatures and seals of the grand jurors on the second sheet.

A comparison of the names shows that some of them seem to be complaining about themselves!



“Aliens without Licence”

Whitehall 1 January 1812

A Whitehall circular expressing grave concern about illegal immigration.

It is suspected that many are in this country to help in the escape of prisoners of war. The Mayor of Winchelsea is reminded that all householders who give lodging to aliens for more than twenty-four hours must report the fact to him or be liable to a fine of £10 (a considerable sum).

The imprisonment of any aliens for failing to observe the regulations must be reported.

(Two sheets A4 of letter WIN 2017}

(Circular.)

Whitehall, 1. January 1812.

A.

It appearing that notwithstanding the precautions which have been adopted for making known to Aliens arriving and residing in this Kingdom, that their Residence here without having obtained a Licence from the Alien Office is illegal; many Aliens wilfully neglect to comply with the regulations laid down in the 22d, 23d, and 25th Sections, of the Alien Act in this respect; and there being also reason to believe that many Aliens have found means of introducing themselves into this Country for the illegal purpose of assisting in the escape of Prisoners of War, &c. Mr. Secretary Ryder has directed me to call your special attention to this subject, and to suggest to you the Expediency of proceeding in the Alien Act directs, against all such Aliens as may be found resident in your District under the Circumstances above stated. I am at the same time directed to point your attention to the 30th Section of the said Act, from which you will perceive that all Housekeepers who shall receive Aliens to lodge or reside in their Houses for more than 24 Hours, without complying with the provisions therein contained, are liable to a Penalty of £10.

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In all cases where Aliens shall be committed by you for being at large without having obtained a Licence, or whose Licences have expired, or who shall have failed to comply with the conditions therein expressed, I have to request you will transmit me an account of your proceedings, for Mr. Secretary Ryder's information, in order that he may decide as to the ultimate Disposal of such Persons when the Period shall have expired for which they stand committed.

Lam
Jr
Your most obedient
Humble Servant
Henry Goldburn

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